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Students call on QUT to sever ties with Adani

14 January, 2015 Ben Hagemann 10 comments

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Students of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) have lobbied management to sever their relationship with Indian coal miner Adani.

Fossil Free QUT have lent their support to fossil fuel divestment organisation 350.org by presenting university management with a petition bearing more than 1000 signatures, and demonstrating at the QUT.

A Facebook Post from Fossil Free QUT said "Adani is known for its unethical social and environmental practices and is responsible for proposals to develop the largest coal mine in Australia and Abbott Point Coal Terminal in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef."

The Australian reported that QUT vice-chancellor had twice declined requests for a meeting with members of Fossil Free QUT, and instead referred the group the university's head of finance Stephen Pincus.

The move comes several months after Australian National University announced it's **divestment from seven resource companies** on the grounds of unethical practices, which caused a major upset in the Australian mining community.

QUT signed an agreement with Adani Australia in December last year, which will see the Graduate School of Business host a series of coaching workshops aimed at enhancing leadership skills for executives who will be involved with development of the Carmichael coal mine.

Business school executive director Bob O'Connor said the Adani Leadership Excellence and Development Program would "challenge Adani leaders to think holistically and make decisions in the best interest of all stakeholders".

Adani's Australian Country Head and Mining CEO, Jeyakumar Janakaraj, said the company was impressed with the University's proven and innovative approaches to executive education.



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“Ensuring our executive team in Australia demonstrate agility in their decision-making through the best educational programs available will be key to ensuring we deliver our integrated mine, rail and port project, which will provide 10,000 jobs, \$22 billion in taxes and royalties for this state, and opportunities for small and medium size businesses,” Janakaraj said.

Construction and mining contractor **Downer EDI recently won a \$2 billion contract** for works at Adani’s Carmichael coal mine in Queensland’s Galilee Basin.

Downer said it had received two letters of awards from Adani for the construction of mine infrastructure and mining services at the site.

Construction of the mine is set to commence later this year, with first coal slated in 2017.

The mine, which was approved in July, will produce 60 million tonnes a year for 60 years.

Read more about:

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Rex · 2 months ago

I'd like to see how a Fossil Free QUT would operate, assuming that their intent is to not use fossil fuels. Drawing on slate in the dark is hardly a productive way of educating people.

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Mervyn Sher · 2 months ago

This is a prime example of academic excellence and purity being compromised in the name of commercial survival. QUT needs the corporate sponsorship to survive, simple as that. Without it, no doubt one would find that the Uni would be struggling financially, much the same as the majority of other Uni's. The ANU being 100% underwritten by the federal government can afford the luxury of its position, that is to divest itself on every financial level from the industries or companies as it recently did. There is nothing either sinister or exemplary in this position. The ANU is a highly esteemed university well regarded for its academic rigour in research programs. That the wellhead of this fount of knowledge chooses to advocate a greater environmental recognition than other industry institutions should be applauded, not vilified.

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There was a time when all universities were both fully funded by the State and at the same time the festering hotbeds of societal change. Students were both expected and encouraged to express themselves and try new thoughts - after all, that's what a higher education was for. In fact I would suggest that a fair few of the readers of this illustrious correspondence were the direct result of that bygone era

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Jarmezrocks → Mervyn Sher · 2 months ago

This is a very clear cut and analytical response to an otherwise messy subject.

I must admit, while reading several points you made throughout your response, I found myself reading and re-reading some lines; not so much due to poor written structure on your behalf but rather understanding such a complex subject matter being discussed (or DISQUS'd rather).

I commend you on your attempts at the very least.

It takes someone of stature and some level of wisdom to unjumble what is really going on here. Most* people are quick to form opinions on any form of subject matter that requires little to no effort. Those kinds of people by my observations are usually the types that become overwhelmed when faced with a large article of text any greater than a 3 line twitter feed; have an attention span about the duration of an ad break during their favourite TV show; and unlikely even and comprehend let alone respond to a subject like this with anything greater than non-sense.

How did I, a 32 yr old Male with Bachelor of Science degree, with 7 years of experience in cartographic mapping find himself here, you may ask?

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Anton → Mervyn Sher · 2 months ago

It is interesting that you label me as uneducated, given that I support mining and look at these protesters as tree hugging bludgers who are WRONG.

care to play qualification poker with me?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Tony Doyle · 2 months ago

What don't the students get about 10 000 jobs ...god help us they might get a job out of it ..wouldn't that be amazing...t.d

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



pkii · 2 months ago

Meanwhile, hardworking QUT students like my daughter are very grateful for Adani's role at QUT and hope that the degree she earns there may be of interest to the company.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Mervyn Sher → pkii · 2 months ago

Which just goes to show that industry and academia can create the symbiotic synergy necessary to co-exist honourably, providing the recipient's have earned their prize, as you have stated.

Wishing the student all the luck and prosperity for her achievement.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



David B · 2 months ago

Perhaps the members of Fossil Free QUT should consider transferring to another university with green and social credentials that they see as being more suitable to their sensibilities. Or perhaps they could offer to pay extra fees to off set any

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abandonment of the relationship with Adani. QUT promotes itself as a "university for the real world" - wake up and smell the coffee

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Anton · 2 months ago
Queensland university of...
Technology, apparently

Haha, bet none of those bludging students can even do high school algebra

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



sucklingpigs · 2 months ago
Just subscribe to their Facebook page record the names of the activists
exercise personal discretion should their resume ever appear on your desk
(assuming they're ever going to try and get a real job of course)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

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